(d) the amount proposed to be provided under the above plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that consequent to Government's decision for launching National Programme for Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) for developing 100 clusters per year beginning 1999-2000, it has been decided to develop 50 clusters in a phased manner. NABARD has identified "Leather" cluster in Athani and Nipani blocks in Belgaum district of Karnataka. The objective of the programme is to generate sustainable income in a selected block/area by financing self-sustaining rural industrial activities with the inter-mediation of a nodal agency to coordinate the required linkage and support services in a systematic manner. This would involve selection of block/area, survery of the area to identify potential rural industrial activities and preparation of draft action plan covering a period of about 5 years indicating the cost and the number of units under each activity to be financed per year. NABARD has released a refinance amounting to Rs. 73.34 crore in Karnataka towards rural industrialisation activities during the year 1999-2000.

Finance Minister's discussion with the World Bank President

4639. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently, visited the United States and held discussions with the President of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 19th April, 2000;

(b) whether the President of World Bank assured him that the post-Pokhran sanctions imposed by the World Bank on development loans to India will soon be lifted and that the projects which are pending for two years would now be brought before the Board for reconsideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and progress till date made in this regard, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) During his visit to

Washington in connection with Spring Meetings, the Finance Minister had met the President, World Bank on 15.4.2000.

(b) and (c) The President, World Bank indicated that in view of the improved climate created by President Clinton's visit of India. Bank would take steps to consider all pending projects expeditiously.

The Bank Board approved the following projects on 25.4.2000:

US $ (in million)

SI. No.	Name of Project	Amount
1.	UP Health Systems Development	110
2.	UP Fiscal Reform & Public Sector Restructuring	251.3
3.	UP Power Sector Restructuring	150
4.	Immunization Strengthening	142.6
5.	Rajasthan DPIP	100
	TOTAL:	753.9

As on April 30th the aggregate commitment by the Bank during this year ending June 30th is $ 1092.27 Million.

World Bank Report

4640. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks among the top 15 countries of the World both in terms of total GNP and value added in manufacturing, according to "World Development Indicators 2000 World Bank Annual Statistical figures;

(b) whether World Bank Report also lays stress on the fact that for rapid reduction in poverty, we will require to adopt more improved policies in developing countries like India; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to remove immense